

# Manachaban School Council Jan 28, 2013

Present: Thomas Elbel  
Krista Stronach  
Penny Beaudry  
Bruce Woolrich  
Dave Levson

Colleen Munro  
Sigi Sengl  
Marla Bosch  
Katt Hryciw

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Welcome and Intros

Agenda then adopted by consent.

Minutes from previous meeting presented and passed.

## Treasurer Report

- current balance remains unchanged at \$3460.92 with \$150 check not yet cleared (for the grandparent program)
- money coming in from walkathon will be over \$8000
- money earmarked to spend
  - up to \$2000 for new jerseys - jerseys are still being sourced
  - approx \$4500 earmarked for active living day

## Dave Levson - Frank Slide

- Grade 5s will be going to Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and the Frank Slide at the end of May this year
- It's an expensive trip with the coach
- would like school council to defray the cost by \$10 per student (108 students)
- After a brief check of other financial commitments, Bruce motions to spend \$10 per student toward the Frank Slide Trip, Sigi seconds - passed

## Staff Report

- December saw the start of new options for the grade 7 and 8s
- Dec 20 there was a dance the last two periods - lots of fun
- No recognition assembly at the end of the last semester - may work for the grade 5 & 6s, but not the grade 7 and 8s (didn't necessarily like the slide show) - working on recognition for year end [more in Admin Report below]
- parent-teacher interviews are next week (would have been this week but Active Living Day interfered), except for Mme Marie and Mme Arsenault
- Active Living Day is on Wednesday. Weather should be good for Nakiska (backup plan is in place just in case)
- Basketball - Gr 7 & 8 A team is currently playing, B team will be in a couple of weeks. Gr 6 Tournament is this week

## Admin Report

- Canadian Parents for French met last week. Only one grade 8 parent attended and none from Elizabeth Barrett.
  - will try to start at the elementary level in the fall with a survival session for parents of french students

- surveys are on the go for parents of grade 7 students (usually get 30/100 parents responding)
- parent focus group to look at eliminating paper based reporting through the year (would still provide a report card at year-end).
  - parents are able to follow student progress in powerschool
  - weekly email on student progress is available (parents must sign up)
  - asked for parent input in email/newsletter and none responded
  - could be a time issue - suggested time of 2-4 in the afternoon may not work
  - maybe send another email with only this request
  - maybe send an email indicating that this is what will happen, then wait for opposition
  - would rather get input from parents
  - Manachaban could be the first school in the division to implement this (with exception of Springbank High?)
  - maybe wait for standardization of report cards across the division (currently there are 14 different middle school report cards)
- Building restructuring - brainstorming is happening
  - ideas will be submitted
  - incoming grade 5s could be a problem - looks like 60 in french and 40 in english - french group is large for just two classes
- part time assistant has been hired to help with grade 6 and 7 English - bonus is that she has a background in french and is an RN
- Evening of Excellence has been scheduled for the evening of June 25 (a Tuesday) to honor academic and effort excellence. This will be by invitation for the grade 7 and 8s
  - what about the students not invited?
- Grade 8 Farewell is scheduled for June 20 (a Thursday)
  - there will be a formal portion, each class will bring a tray of food, then there will be a dance
- Mme Paskov and been nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award
- Manachaban will exchange ideas with Cardsen Junior high

## Trustee Report

- there have been three board meetings since Nov 26 (last School Council meeting)
- Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal budget was approved
- Seven portables have been requested for Glenbow and Mitford (none for Manachaban)
  - will revisit portables next November (Town of Cochrane wants no more portables in the tri-school area (Elizabeth Barrett, Manachaban, Cochrane High))
- Bruce McAllister, the Wildrose Education Critic from Chestermere, will be coming to Elizabeth Barrett
- Minister of Education (Jeff Johnson) came to Cochrane High for a frank discussion about needs of Rockyview. (two schools in Airdrie, 1 for Cochrane). Felt that he listened.
- Space issues at Glenbow and Mitford
  - all new communities in Cochrane are designated for these schools
  - having discussion with community
  - Glenbow needs space for 120 students but has no more room for portables
  - Make Mitford K-8? or make it 3-8?
  - A new school for Sunset Ridge (K-8) would change all this
- Wind Turbine for Cochrane High was approved by board (local community has a group opposed to it)
  - approval must still be made by the Energy Board
- next board election (October)
  - returning officer has been approved
  - looking at ward boundaries
    - changes must be in to the minister 6 months in advance (March)
    - set boundaries for representation by population? - Don't want to split communities
- Internet Privacy Policy has been approved
- 14 high school students in Rockyview achieved 100% on their diploma exams (8 are from Cochrane High) and were honored
- Bargaining with teachers will begin again on Feb 26

## Lockdown

- recent lockdown of the tri-schools was the result of confusion over a text message at the high school
- Manachaban was in lockdown for 45 minutes
- even though it was a false alarm, it was useful to highlight flaws in the system
  - previous drills were shorter in duration (maybe 10 minutes)
  - electronic devices in student hands allowed communication in and out of the school including:
    - a text from a sibling at the high school asking if they were also in lockdown (indicating the extent of the lockdown)
    - texts to parents which then caused parents to call the school (tying up phone lines) or to cause parents to want to come to the school (not necessarily a good course of action had the emergency been real)
  - jam cell and wifi to prevent this?
    - communication can be a comfort to students
    - blocking cell phone communication may not be desired for the teachers and responders
  - maybe indicate to students the type of message that should be communicated to the outside
  - will continue to discuss these
- otherwise, it all went as planned in previous drills

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb 25, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.